

Appl. No. : 10/624,816
Filed : July 22, 2003

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating viral infections comprising applying electrical stimulation to the skin or mucosa of a patient, wherein said electrical stimulation is applied as a series of electrical pulses via first and second electrodes located on a surface of an electrical stimulation device, wherein the said first and second electrodes are concentric closed contours configured such that said second electrode is configured to define a boundary that surrounds the first electrode and the first electrode surrounds a non-electrode region, and wherein different pulses in said series have different maximum amplitudes.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said pulses progressively increase or decrease in maximum voltage or current amplitude
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said pulses progressively increase in maximum voltage or current amplitude.
4. (Currently amended) A method of treating viral infections comprising applying electrical stimulation to the skin or mucosa of a patient, wherein said electrical stimulation is applied as a series of electrical pulses via first and second electrodes located on a surface of an electrical stimulation device, wherein the second electrode is configured to define a boundary that surrounds the first electrode, and wherein different pulses in said series have different maximum amplitudes. ~~The method of Claim 1, wherein some at least one of said series of pulses comprises AC waveforms, and wherein some at least one of said series of pulses comprises DC waveforms.~~
5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein at least a ~~portion one~~ of said series of pulses alternates between AC and DC pulses.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said pulses vary in maximum amplitude from approximately 3 volts to approximately 20 volts.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of treating viral infections comprising applying electrical stimulation to the skin or mucous membranes of a patient, wherein said electrical stimulation is applied as a series of electrical pulses via first and second electrodes located on a surface of an electrical stimulation device, wherein said first and second electrodes are concentric closed contours configured such that said ~~wherein the second electrode is configured to define a~~

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boundary that surrounds the first electrode and the first electrode surrounds a non-electrode region, and wherein different pulses in said series have different frequencies.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein said pulses have different maximum amplitudes.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of treating viral infections with an electrical stimulation device, the method comprising applying alternating periods of AC and DC electrical stimulation pulses to the affected skin or mucosa of a patient.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein said alternating periods of AC and DC electrical stimulation progressively increase in amplitude.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein different periods of AC stimulation have different frequencies.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9, wherein said frequencies progressively increase or decrease in frequency within one of said AC periods.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for treating viral infections with electrical stimulation applied to skin or mucous membranes, comprising:

at least two electrodes located on a surface, wherein the configuration of a second of the at least two electrodes is configured to define a boundary that surrounds the first electrode; and

a circuit configured to supply both AC and DC voltage to said electrodes at voltages of less than or equal to about 20 volts.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus for treating viral infections with electrical stimulation applied to skin or mucous membranes, comprising first and second electrodes located on a surface, wherein said first and second electrodes are concentric closed contours configured such that ~~wherein said second electrode is configured to define~~ a boundary that surrounds the first electrode and the first electrode surrounds a non-electrode region, and wherein said first electrode and said second electrode each comprise an elongated surface for application to a patient's skin or mucosa.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

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17 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are configured as concentric circles.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are configured as concentric rectangles.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first electrode and said electrode are configured as concentric squares.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A device for treating viral infections comprising:
a housing;

an electrical signal source mounted to said housing, said signal source capable of producing a series of electrical pulses, wherein at least one of said series of pulses comprises AC waveforms and at least one of said series of pulses comprises DC waveforms;

an application surface of said housing for application to a patient's skin or mucous membranes;

first and second electrodes located on the application surface for applying electrical stimulation to the skin or mucosa of a patient, wherein said second electrode is configured to define a boundary that surrounds the first electrode and wherein said electrodes are coupled to said electrical signal source so as to be energized by said electrical signal source; and

a counter mounted to said housing, wherein said counter is configured to display a count of the number of times said electrical signal source has energized said electrodes.

23. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 22, wherein said counter comprises a multi-segment LCD display.

24-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are in a coaxial configuration.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are in a coaxial configuration.

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31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are in a coaxial configuration.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said first electrode and said second electrode are in a coaxial configuration.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None

Identification of Claims Discussed

1, 4-7, 9-13

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

Lathrop (U.S. Pat. No. 6,083,250), Beder (U.S. Pat. No. 6,041,262), Dhurjaty (U.S. Pat. No. 6,597,949), and Kleditsch et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,470,349).

Proposed Amendments

Amendments to the independent claims and to claims 4 and 5 were discussed.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

Applicant argued that the cited references do not disclose all the claimed elements of the pending claims, and that there is no motivation to combine Lathrop '250 and Beder '262. The Examiner presented Kleditsch for disclosing electrode configurations.

Results of Interview

Examiner agreed references cited to date to not teach or disclose the combination of the different series of AC and DC pulses. The electrode configurations disclosed in of Kleditsch et al. was discussed and Applicant agreed to review and address Kleditsch when responding to the Office Action.